(c) No loan is given directly by the Central Government to ECL. All Government loans are sanctioned to Coal India Limited (CIL). However, unsecured loan of CIL to ECL outstanding as on 31-3-1999 is Rs. 61557.30 lakhs.

Shifting of CIL HO to Ranchi

†2843. SHRI SHIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government realize the fact that since of the coal mines are located in the Jharkhand area, the Head Office of Coal India Limited be shifted from Calcutta to Ranchi for better management of these mines;

(b) if so, by when this work is likely to be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS [DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA] : (a) to (c) At present, therer is no proposal to shift the Headquarters of Coal India Limited (CIL) from Calcutta to Ranchi. As per information received from CIL, of the total number of 498 mines as on 1-4-1999 being operated by Coal India Ltd., 175 are in Jharkhand area (Bihar). In terms of coal production, the percentage of coal produced from the mines in Jharkhand area (Bihar) is about 27% of Coal India's total production during the year 1998-99.

Exploration of Mines and Minerals in NER

2844. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken up by Government to explore the mines and minerals in the States of the North-East Region;

(b) when was the survey conducted;

(c) what are the reports of such survey; and

(d) the amount so far spent for exploration of mines and minerals in the North-East Region on State-wise basis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS [DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA] : (a) to (c) The Department of Mines, Government of India had constituted a Task Force headed by the

† Original Notice of the question was received in Hindi.